

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE**

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4052  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 04<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY, 2019**

**MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH**

**4052. SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI:  
SHRI KALIKESH N. SINGH DEO:**

Will the Minister of **HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has recently inaugurated the India Day event and if so, the details and objectives thereof and the manner in which various health issues of mother and child are likely to be addressed;
- (b) the other steps taken/being taken by the Government to improve reproductive and maternal health in the country;
- (c) whether the Government has made any attempt to increase awareness regarding maternal health in the country; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER  
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND  
FAMILY WELFARE  
(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)**

(a): Yes; the objective of organizing India Day event as part of Partner's Forum, 2018 was to share achievements, learnings and innovations from Government of India's flagship Reproductive, Maternal, Neonatal, Child and Adolescent Health Programme, and to build on the learnings to respond to evolving needs of programme stakeholders.

(b): Steps taken/ being taken by the Government to improve reproductive and maternal health in the country are annexed.

(c) & (d): The Ministry of Health has developed a Safe Motherhood Booklet which is given to all pregnant women. It is a tool for informing the pregnant women about various aspects of pregnancies such as registration, antenatal check-ups, nutrition, hygiene, family support, danger signs, post natal care, new born care, breastfeeding and immunisation, family planning etc.

Ministry of Health & Family welfare and Ministry of Women and Child Development (MOWCD) has jointly developed Mother and Child Protection (MCP) card which is provided to all pregnant women. This card includes information such as care during pregnancy, schemes for pregnant women such as Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY), Janani Shishu Suraksha Karyakram (JSSK), Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan (PMSMA) etc.

Funds are provided to States/ UTs through the annual programme implementation plans for IEC activities at State/ district level. Special intensive IEC campaigns are designed on key schemes of the Ministry such as JSSK, PMSMA, Anemia Mukta Bharat etc to raise awareness of beneficiaries.

Steps taken/ being taken by the Government to improve reproductive health in the country

- **Mission Parivar Vikas:** The Government has launched Mission Parivar Vikas for substantially increasing access to contraceptives and family planning services in 146 high fertility districts of seven high focus states
- **New Contraceptive Choices:** The current basket of choice has been expanded to include the new contraceptives viz. Injectable contraceptive under Antara programme, Centchroman and Progesterone Only Pills (POP).
- **Family Planning Logistics Management Information System (FP-LMIS)** has been launched.
- **New Family Planning Media Campaign**
- **Redesigning Contraceptive Packaging:** The packaging for Condoms, Oral Contraceptive Pills and Emergency Contraceptive Pills has now been improved and redesigned so as to influence the demand for these commodities.
- **Emphasis on Postpartum Family Planning (PPFP) especially PPIUCD services.**
- **Emphasis on Post Abortion IUCD (PAIUCD) services**
- **Compensation scheme for PPIUCD & PAIUCD acceptors and providers.**
- Provision of IUCD services through **IUCD 375** with 5 years effectivity and **IUCD 380A** with effectivity of 10 years).
- **Compensation scheme for sterilization acceptors-** Under the scheme MoHFW provides compensation for loss of wages to the beneficiaries on account of undergoing sterilisation.
- Scheme for **Home delivery of contraceptives by ASHAs** at doorstep of beneficiaries.
- **Scheme for ASHAs to ensure spacing in births:** Under the scheme, services of ASHAs are being utilized for counselling newly married couples to ensure delay of 2 years in birth after marriage and couples with 1 child to have spacing of 3 years after the birth of 1st child.
- **Pregnancy Testing Kits (PTK) scheme:** The aim of the scheme is to make available the Pregnancy Testing Kits (PTKs) with ASHAs and at the sub-centre level for early detection of pregnancy and availing of other RCH services.
- Ensuring quality of care in Family Planning services by establishing **Quality Assurance Committees** in all states and districts.
- Increasing **male participation and promotion of Non Scalpel Vasectomy** through **celebration of Vasectomy fortnight** each year in November.

## Steps taken/ being taken by the Government to improve maternal health in the country

- **Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY)**, a demand promotion and conditional cash transfer scheme is being implemented with the objective of reducing Maternal and Infant Mortality by encouraging institutional deliveries.
- **Janani Shishu Suraksha Karyakram (JSSK)** aims to eliminate out-of-pocket expenses for pregnant women and sick neonates. Under JSSK, every pregnant woman is entitled to free delivery, including caesarean section, in public health institutions. This also includes absolutely free transport, diagnostics, medicines, other consumables, food and blood, if required. The scheme has now been expanded to cover sick infants up to one year of age.
- **Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan (PMSMA)** has been launched to provide fixed-day assured, comprehensive and quality antenatal care universally to all pregnant women on the 9th of every month.
- **LaQshya** is a focused and targeted approach to strengthen key processes related to the labour rooms and maternity operation theatres in order to improve quality of care around birth and ensure respectful maternity care.
- Special provision of **Birth waiting homes** has been made under NHM for pregnant women from tribal/ difficult areas.
- Under NHM States are supported to provide monetary and non-monetary incentives including hard area allowances etc to attract **Human Resources**.
- **Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Wings** are established at high caseload facilities to improve the quality of care provided to mothers and children.
- **Capacity building** of MBBS doctors in Anaesthesia (LSAS) and Obstetric Care including C-section (EmOC) skills is undertaken to overcome the shortage of specialists in these disciplines, particularly in rural areas. **Skill Labs** are being set up to enhance the quality of training.
- **Mother and Child Tracking System (MCTS)** and Mother and Child Tracking Facilitation Centre (MCTFC): A name based web enabled system has been introduced by Government of India to track every pregnant women and child in order to ensure and monitor timely and quality services to them.
- Universal screening of **Gestational Diabetes Mellitus**, screening for **hypothyroidism** for high risk group during pregnancy has been initiated.
- Over 10 lakhs **Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHAs)** have been engaged to facilitate access of health care services by the community, particularly pregnant women.
- Under the **Anemia Mukh Bharat** (Intensified National Iron Plus Initiative), iron and folic acid supplementation is provided across life stages including for pregnant, lactating women and adolescent girls at health facilities and during outreach activities.